

In the Specification:

Page 1: between Ins. 7 and 8, please insert the following:

--Cross-reference to Related Applications

The present application is the national stage under 35 U.S.C. 371 of International Application Serial No. PCT/US03/03425, filed on February 3, 2003, which designated the United States, and published under PCT Article 21 (2) in the English language, and which claims the benefit of priority of United States Provisional Application Serial No. 60/354,423, filed on February 4, 2002, each of which is incorporated herein in its entirety by reference.--

Page 3: between Ins. 5 to 34, please delete the following:

~~This study also documented that loss of telomerase activity and shortening of telomeres may be accompanied at the genetic level by an increase in chromosome abnormalities, including chromosome bridges and chromosome malformations.~~

~~The concept that decreased stabilization of telomeres (i.e., decrease in telomere length and/or number) is related to cellular immortality was established from studies of various types of tumors (see, e.g., Hastie et al., *Nature*, 346: 866-868 (1990); Adamson et al., *Cancer Genet. Cytogenet.*, 61: 204-206 (1992); Odagiri et al., *Cancer*, 73: 2978-2984 (1994); Rogalla et al., *Cancer Genet. Cytogenet.*, 77: 19-25 (1994); Shirotani et al., *Lung Cancer*, 11: 29-41 (1994); and Yamada et al., *J. Clin. Invest.*, 95: 1117-1123 (1995)). In general, telomeres were found to be notably shorter in immortal cells than those in mortal tissues. An exception to this correlation appears to be the immortal HeLa cell line from a uterine cervical carcinoma that contains exceptionally long telomeres (de Lange et al., *Mol. Cell Biol.*, 10: 518-527 (1990)).~~

~~———— In general, telomerase levels are relatively high (upregulated) in progenitor cells and neurons during early development and decrease in association with cell differentiation (see, e.g., Mattson et al., *J. Neurosci. Res.*, 63(1): 1-9 (2001)). Upregulation of telomerase expression for telomere maintenance or extension appears to be required for cell immortality. Upregulation of telomerase expression also appears to be a characteristic of most tumor cells, which may contain chromosomes with relatively short telomeres (see, e.g., Pawelec, *Mech. Aging Develop.*, 121:~~

181-185 (2000)). Nevertheless, the presence of telomerase in cancer cells appears to maintain telomeres of sufficient length to permit continuous generations of cell divisions. Thus, expression of telomerase has been viewed as a diagnostic marker for cancer cells, and the inhibition of telomerase activity or the repression of telomerase expression have been used as the bases for developing screens for anti-cancer drugs and possible anti-cancer therapies (see, e.g., U.S. Patent No. 5,639,613; U.S. Patent No. 5,770,613; U.S. Patent No. 5,840,490; U.S. Patent No. 5,863,936; U.S. Patent No. 5,989,807).